

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as currently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5-7, 17-21, 23, 27, and 29 are pending and Claims 9, 11-13, 22, 24-26, and 28 cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-4, 8, 10, 15, and 16 were previously cancelled. By this amendment Claims 1, 14, 27, and 29 are amended to incorporate features indicated as being drawn to allowable subject matter in Claims 9 and 22. Thus, no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 14, 27, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Ting et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,810,155, herein "Ting"); Claims 5-7 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ting; and Claims 9, 17, and 21-23 are indicated to be allowable over the prior art.

Initially, applicants gratefully acknowledge the early indication of the allowable subject matter in Claims 9, 17, and 21-23.

Accordingly, Applicants have cancelled allowable Claims 9 and 22 and incorporated the features therein into independent Claims 1, 14, 27, and 29.

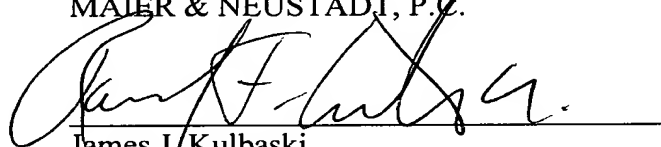
Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 1, 14, 27, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Ting be withdrawn in view of the amendment made to the claims to incorporate allowable subject matter.

Applicant further respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 5-7 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ting at least because Claims 5-7 all depend from Claims 1 and Claims 18-20 all depend from Claim 14, where parent Claims 1 and 14 have been amended to include allowable subject matter as noted above.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance due to the amendments of Claim 1, 14, 27, and 29 and the cancellation of Claim 2-4, 8-10, 15, 16, 22, 24-26, and 28. Thus entry of the present amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 is believed to be in order and a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1, 5-7, 11-14, 17-21, and 23-29 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James J. Kulbaski', is written over a horizontal line.

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